

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates generally to a method for processing of wastewater onboard a marine vessel, involving flashing of the wastewater into water vapor.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a division of pending application number 09/726,028, filed Nov. 30, 2000, entitled "Processing of Shipboard Wastewater."

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] Presently, liquid waste in the form of bilgewater is cleansed by processing systems which utilize ultrafiltration membranes to separate oil and water, as disclosed for example in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,730,848 and 5,932,091 to Kowalski and Tompkins et al. Such processing systems rely on fine-sized membrane pores which create high fouling rate problems so as to require use of multi-stage flushing modes and heavy duty recirculating pumps to wash membrane surfaces in order to prolong membrane life. It is accordingly, an important object of the present invention to provide a processing system for cleansing wastewater such as oily bilgewater that avoids reliance on ultrafiltration membranes subject to fouling and an unduly shortened life in the absence of extensive back flushing operational modes.